



VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA 2021 E-BULLETIN #3

Further detection of Avian Influenza (H7N7) on egg farm in Victoria

This email has been sent to all veterinary surgeons in South Australia by the Veterinary Surgeons Board of South Australia for and on behalf of Dr Mary Carr, Chief Veterinary Officer, Biosecurity SA, Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA). If you have any questions about this communication, please contact PIRSA directly: www.pir.sa.gov.au

I am writing to advise you of the detection of avian influenza on a second poultry farm in Victoria.

The first outbreak was detected on 1 July 2020 at a free-range egg farm, at Lethbridge in Victoria. A second egg farm has now tested positive for H7N7, also near Lethbridge, Victoria. This farm is within the existing Restricted Area.

The media release from Agriculture Victoria is available here: [Second Victorian property positive for avian influenza](#)

As outlined in the media release, avian influenza is a highly contagious virus. It primarily affects chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, guinea fowl, quail, pheasants and ostriches. Many species of wild birds, including waterfowl and seabirds, can also carry the virus without showing symptoms.

The outbreak in Victoria was detected following the observation of a drop in egg production and high bird mortalities.

Please be on alert for any of the following clinical signs in poultry:

- A rapid drop in feed intake, water intake and egg production
- Signs of respiratory distress, including coughing, sneezing or rasping respiration
- Sick birds of unknown cause – signs such as ruffled feathers, dopiness and closed eyes
- Sudden death
- Swelling and purple discoloration of the head, comb, wattles and neck
- Diarrhoea
- Nervous signs (uncommon)



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Any of the above signs in poultry or unusual mortalities observed in wild birds should be reported immediately to PIRSA via the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline: **1800 675 888**.

Further information can be found here:

- Agriculture Victoria - [Avian influenza \(bird flu\)](#)
- Australian Government – National pest and disease outbreaks – [Avian influenza H7N7 in Victoria](#)

Human Health

Please note that the H7N7 virus is **not a risk to the public** as it rarely affects humans unless there is direct, close contact with sick birds. This is a completely different virus and not the highly pathogenic influenza strains (H5N1 or H1N1) that have been responsible for human health outbreaks.

7 August 2020